at least one of said nucleosides bears at a 2'-O-position, a 3'-O-position, or a 5'-O-position a terminal substituent having formula:

$$-R_A-N(R_{1a})(R_{1b})$$

where:

R_A is alkyl having from 1 to about 10 carbon atoms or $(CH_2-CH_2-Q)_x$;

R_{1a} and R_{1b}, independently, are H, R_2, or an amine protecting group or have formula $C(X)-R_2$, $C(X)-R_A-R_2$, $C(X)-Q-R_A-R_2$, $C(X)-Q-R_2$; and

R_2 is a folate, a steroid molecule, a reporter molecule, a lipophilic molecule, a reporter enzyme, a peptide, a protein, or has formula $-Q-(CH_2CH_2-Q-)_x-R_3$;

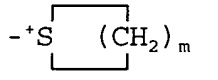
X is O or S;

each Q is, independently, is NH, O, or S;

x is about 1 to about 50; [1 to about 200;]

R_3 is H, R_A, $C(O)OH$, $C(O)OR_A$, $C(O)R_4$, R_A-N_3, or R_A-NH_2;

R_4 is Cl, Br, I, SO_2R_5 or has structure:



;

m is 2 to 7; and

R_5 alkyl having 1 to about 10 carbon atoms.